

4-4-02



Cesar Chavez Celebration see page 4

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WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

NAME: CESAR CHAVEZ
OCCUPATION: UNION ORGANIZER

NAME: CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
OCCUPATION: EXPLORER

Cesar Chavez vs. Christopher Columbus see page 2

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The Valley Star

VOLUME 57, ISSUE No. 4

APRIL 4, 2002

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Valley Commemorates Cesar Chavez Access Limited at Valley

BY BEN JAURON
STAR REPORTER

Did you enjoy your day off of school this past Monday? Drink? Party? Tear up the town? Well good, but do you know why you had that day off? Surprisingly, while most students interviewed had heard the name Cesar Chavez, few knew about and the man's accomplishments, and some hadn't even heard of him.

"It's good that he has a holiday," said computer networking major Sham Doha, excitedly. "We party Sunday Night!"

"He was an important man as a leader of the Hispanic population, especially the farm workers," said R.L. Pritchard, political science professor. "He was a man of great conviction and devoted a large portion of his life to helping the community. If we're going to commemorate people of significance by holding a holiday in their name then he's certainly deserving of it, I just don't like holidays interfering with class schedules."

Cesar Estrada Chavez was born in 1927 near Yuma, Arizona and died in 1993. In short, he was an agrarian labor organizer who began his life as a migrant worker and soon became the general director of the Community Service Organization (CSO) from 1958 to 1962. He left the CSO in 1962 in order to organize grape-pickers in California into the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA); in 1966 the NFWA joined with the

Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee was formed. Chavez and his followers used boycotts, strikes, fasts, picket lines and marches to accomplish their goals of better treatment for the almost exclusively Hispanic population of migrant agricultural laborers in the Southwest, as well as supporting other union causes throughout the United States. In 1973, the UFW became a full and equal member union of the AFL-CIO, and Chavez and his cohorts continued their struggles for workers' rights.

"I marched with [Cesar Chavez] and Robert F. Kennedy when they came to the San Joaquin Valley back in the late 60's," said Ramiro Rosillo, president of foreign students. "He fought for human rights: you look at Martin Luther King and they had the same philosophy. He should be honored because he touched many peoples' lives and not many Mexicanos are honored [with holidays]."

Chavez was more than just a union director. In the more comprehensive and broad version, Chavez is a symbol of Hispanic pride in the United States and a rallying image for la raza. Approximately 500 people attended the official memorial service at St. Vincent's Church in downtown LA on Monday night, and the spirit of si, se puede was alive and well as Cardinal Mahoney conducted services in Spanish, English and Latin.



A Cesar Chavez admirer displays the flag that helps symbolize the labor leaders fight for farm workers.

In an interview, the cardinal said that Chavez's message was one of hope for a brighter future and was a "faith-filled, grassroots effort" and commended the late leader on his ability to inspire people.

Cesar Chavez's son, Paul Chavez, was in attendance as well and said that his father's message spoke to anyone who wants "justice and dignity."

"[My father's] work continues," Chavez said. "The UFW is actively organizing immigrant workers and working towards pro-

viding better housing for poor people in the Southwest. Just today a new law strengthening transportation safety for farm workers went into effect."

To elaborate on Chavez's continuing legacy, the union's current president and Chavez's son-in-law, Arturo Rodriguez, remarked on the organization's present activities.

"We just won an election in Sonoma County, we are currently negotiating on behalf of the Kickapoo Indian Tribe, and are always working for rights of health

insurance, better wages, and respect for all working Americans," he said.

According to several sources within the organization, Chavez's real legacy isn't one of Chicano pride or Brown power, but rather human dignity for all people, as his core values of equality, non-violence, service to the poor and civil rights that transcends race, religion or status and community development.

BY GEPPETTO LAUNER
STAR REPORTER

Valley College student Brandy King was being unloaded at the campus's main entrance on Fulton one day when a campus security officer approached her and asked what was going on. King's companion, Carlos, was parked in the red zone. King, who is disabled, explained the situation to the officer, who called them "liars."

It has been more than a decade since the U.S. Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Valley College lacks accommodations that allow students with disabilities equal access to all school facilities. Title III of the ADA lists four priorities for planning readily achievable barrier removal: accessible entrance into the facility, access to goods and services, access to restrooms and any other measures necessary. Public facilities that must meet these requirements include restaurants, museums and schools.

Valley has no designated disabled loading and unloading zone. Natalie Nelson was also harassed by campus security while attempting to load her client while parked in the red zone.

"My client's mother came to pick up her daughter, who has cerebral palsy," Nelson said. "As her mother was fastening in her daughter's wheelchair, a sheriff (sic) came up and rudely scolded her for parking in the front circle."

"I had difficulty accessing my photography 618 class because I have to use an electric scooter," said Valley student Lynn Eller. She also had difficulty accessing the art building's restroom. To avoid creating a disturbance, Eller refused to drink fluids before class to avoid using the restroom during class.

Eller also had difficulties accessing the darkroom for Professor Tom Mossman's photography 618 class. Eller said that Mossman told her if she could not access the darkroom she would have to drop the class. The Valley Star made three unsuccessful attempts to contact Mossman.

Eventually, a solution was achieved and Eller used the darkroom in the business-journalism building. Eller had to travel from one end of campus to the other.

According to Valley's master plan, "only 12 of the 85 bungalows are accessible to wheelchair bound students." Eller had trouble on two separate occasions accessing classes that met in the bungalow. Eller's classes were switched to bungalows that are wheelchair accessible. The bathroom access problem has not been solved. "Basically, I'm just living with this situation," Eller said.

Campus Lots Safe with Cops on the Watch

BY BEN JAURON
STAR REPORTER

Hundreds of thousands of aircraft and ships safely pass through the infamous Bermuda Triangle every year and the number of vessels that experience navigational difficulties or are actually lost in the waters off of Cape Hatteras is negligible when compared to those that have incident-free journeys. Along these lines, hundreds of thousands of automobiles park in the lots at Valley College every year and the overwhelming majority of them remain unmolested; however, like the waters off of Cape Hatteras, the cars in the parking lots off of Hatteras Street are not immune to disappearing without a trace.

As stated in the previous article of this series, there were ten incidents of vehicular-related crimes on the Valley College campus in the first quarter of 2002. This is a very small number when considering the volume of traffic that the school handles, but still any-

thing but an academic issue. The most commonly stolen items from cars are stereo equipment and accessories, such as amplifiers, speakers, CD's; however, there have been reported cases of backpacks, textbooks, wallets and purses, and other odds and ends stolen as well.

Spanish major Vince Henderson, who had his brand new Chevy Tahoe pickup truck stolen from Parking Lot D on Feb. 21, is not at all pleased with the way the authorities are handling his situation. "They've done nothing," said Henderson. "I've heard nothing from nobody, not the LAPD or the school police. They need to beef it [security] up, at least for the sake of student's cars. They need to do something other than ride around campus trying to mack on all these women." Henderson's car was parked between a Lexus and a BMW when it was stolen, and he claims it was the first time he forgot to install his club anti-theft device. He also admits to being

very embarrassed about having to rely on public transportation.

According to Sheriff Randy Tuinstra, any vehicular-related crime is a crime of opportunity, whether it's grand theft auto or pennies stolen from the ashtray. The best method to prevent vehicle-related crimes is to make sure that the doors are always locked and the windows are rolled up; don't leave

anything valuable in plain sight inside the vehicle, such as wallets, jewelry or tools; and the club and other anti-theft devices are always a good investment. "If the staff and students take a minute to ensure their vehicle is locked and all valuables are not in plain view from the outside, they will less likely become a victim," he said.

Parking Alert!



The west side of College Road South will be closed on Friday, Apr. 5, due to maintenance.

Opinion

2. APRIL 4, 2002

commentary

Chavez Day vs. Columbus Day: An Ethical Not An Ethnic Issue


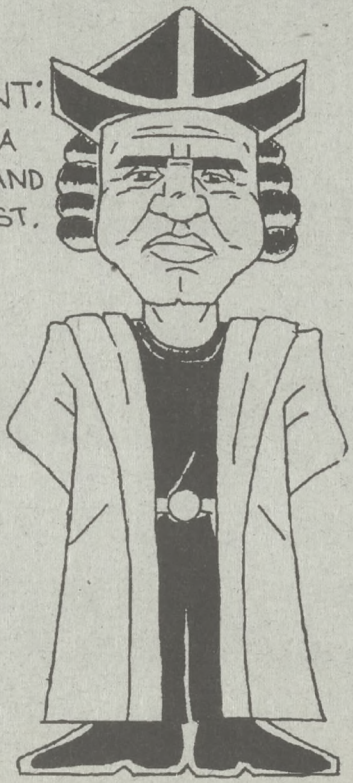
BY ROGELIO GARCIA

Hail Cesar, but for how long? That was the topic discussed by the Los Angeles City Council: over whether or not to allow 2,000 city employees to take Cesar Chavez Day as a paid holiday instead of Columbus Day. The question now is who deserves it more?

On March 21 the council met with many angry protesters from the Italian American community who vigorously oppose taking away holiday status away from the Italian explorer. However, in an 8-4 vote, the council decided to give the employees Cesar Chavez Day off instead of Columbus day for this year, but offering to see if the unions representing city workers would accept changes for future years. Democratic strategist Joseph Cerrell, who is also president of the National Italian-American Foundation, was among a dozen people to address the council. "Italian-Americans do not oppose declaring Cesar Chavez Day a paid holiday," Cerrell said to the Los Angeles Times. While the Italian-American community has a right to voice their opposition over the council's decision, they must also realize that this should be an ethical issue and not an ethnic one.

Latino pride aside, I find the notion of deciding between these two individuals ridiculous. On one hand you have Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers Union, who devoted his life to helping the underrepresented. On the other hand you have Christopher Columbus, who's greatest accomplishment was "discovering" America, even though others had already inhabited the land and at least two other explorers vis-

WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

<p>NAME: CESAR CHAVEZ OCCUPATION: UNION ORGANIZER LABOR LEADER / ACTIVIST HUMANITARIAN</p> <p>GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT: BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN TO STOP GRAPE GROWERS FROM USING PESTICIDES ON CROPS.</p> 	<p>NAME: CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS OCCUPATION: EXPLORER</p> <p>GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT: SURVIVING A LONG TRIP AND GETTING LOST.</p> 
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ited these shores prior to his Voyage in 1492. In other words, it's an issue of honoring a man and his accomplishments or honoring the accomplishments of a man we know little about, and if you do bother to find out about this man you might not like what you hear.

A letter read to the council asked the question, "If a person with such a tremendous accomplishment is no longer honored, then who should be? Well why not Chavez?"

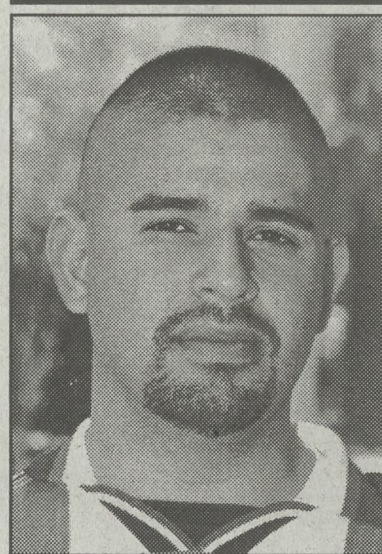
One option that would not offend the Latino or the Italian

community would be to give both individuals a paid holiday. However, it is unlikely the city will make it that easy. An additional day off would cost the city about \$5 million. Another option would be to let voters decide whether to celebrate Chavez or Columbus. The bad side is that although the outcome would be final, it might create tensions between the two communities.

Seems like the Los Angeles City Council has its hands full with this one.

CampusView

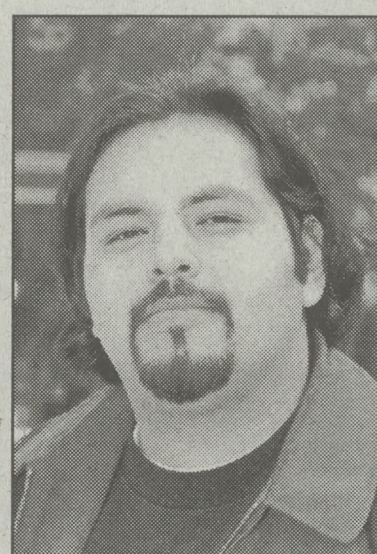
Do you know who Cesar Chavez was and what he did?

BY JORGE GALLEGOS
STAR REPORTER

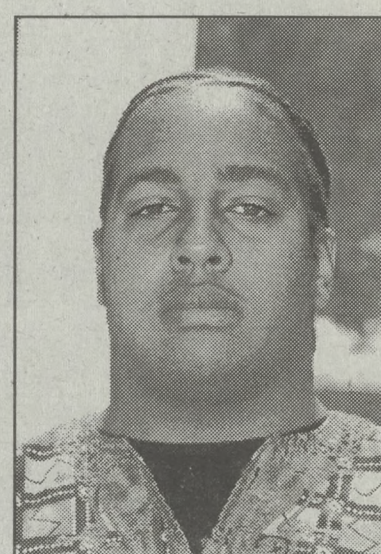
"Cesar Chavez was a civil rights activist, and he started a union for the farmers."



"I don't know about him, but I'll like to learn about him"



"He was a labor union organizer along with Dolores Huerta. He helped the campesinos rise up from oppression. He is an inspiration, especially for the Chicanos."



"I don't know much about Cesar Chavez, but he was a political leader in the farmers' movement."

Francisco Avelar
PsychologyPharamacist
Netesante AyaleniAndres Garcia
CriminologyRobert Caldwell
Liberal Studies

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Valley Life

APRIL 4, 2002 • 3



STAR PHOTO/ SUSIE SPECK MAYOR

Kathy Arellano (in white t-shirt) attends a support group meeting of Grandparents as Parents. The group meets to give each other emotional support and advice about financial and legal aid.

FIRST PERSON: KATHY ARELLANO

As part of a three-part series, Valley College student Kathy Arellano gives a first person account of raising her grandson, Vincent. Arellano took custody of her grandson due to her daughter's battle with drugs.

Drug Problems

My daughter has a serious drug problem, which started when she was in high school. Neither my husband nor I ever used drugs and did not recognize the now-familiar signs of her involvement. We tried various types of intervention and counseling with her. Life at home was turbulent then. She came home

whenever she felt like it and was "stoned" most of the time. She finally left home and got even more involved with hard drugs and with very dangerous-looking people who used and dealt "street" drugs.

She stopped caring about herself and her personal hygiene. She began stealing from us — money and things she could sell easily. At first, I thought I lost or spent the \$20 bill that I remembered seeing in my wallet. She also stole our second car and we called the police to report it. She abandoned it and left a phone message telling us where to find it.

Pregnancy

She had two pregnancies before she had Vincent — one ended by abortion and the other resulting in the birth of our first grandchild, a girl. Our daughter gave this little girl up for adoption. All we know is that her name is Jarriet. We continue to hope that when she is old enough, she will try to find us.

When our daughter informed us that she was pregnant with Vincent, we feared that he would disappear into the larger world, too. She was living in Oregon. When she was six months into her pregnancy, she checked herself into a recovery

house for women, determined to make positive changes in her life. By the time Vincent was born, our daughter had succeeded in maintaining sobriety for three months. We flew to Oregon to be with her and to see our new grandson. After a conference with our daughter's counselor, we offered to give our daughter and grandson a place to live and some emotional and financial support while she continued to pull her life together.

In the next issue of the Valley Star, Arellano tells of the "beginning of her nightmare and nine years of hell."

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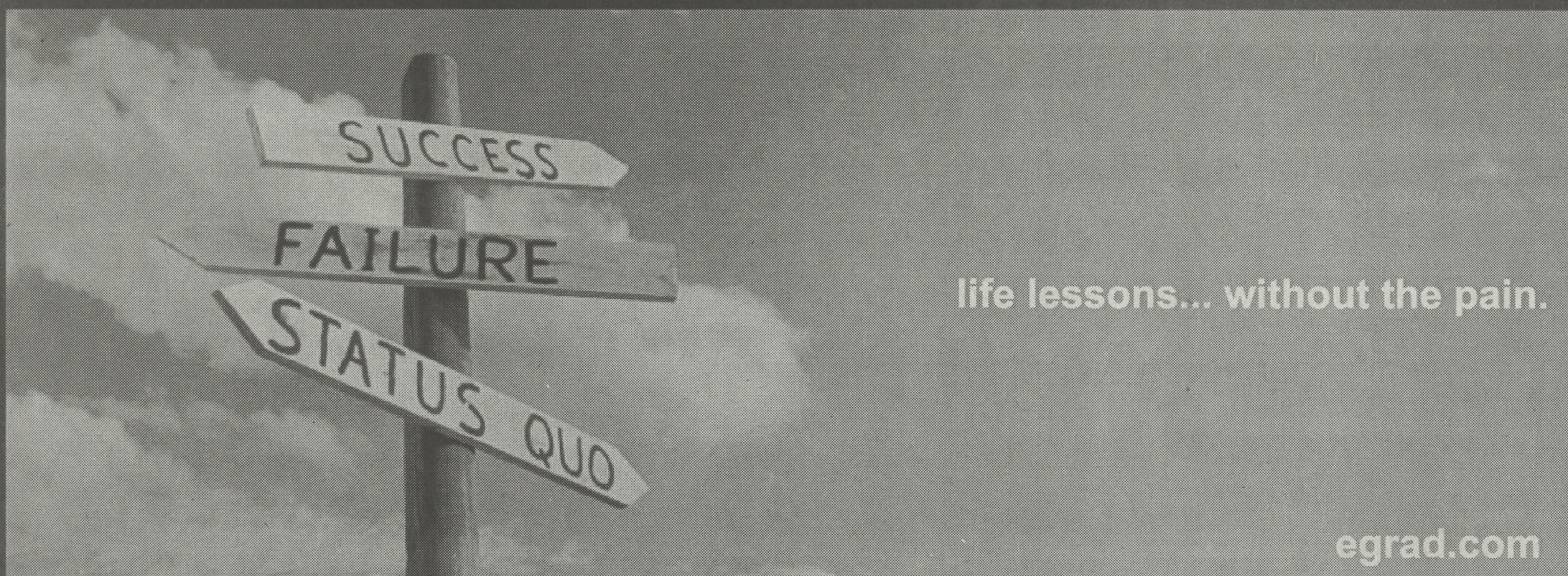
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4. APRIL 4, 2002

Gallery

CESAR CHAVEZ A MAN OF CONVICTION



Star Photo by Jorge Gallegos



Star Photo by Salvador Aguilar

Plazita Olvera hosted the celebration of the birth of Cesar Chavez.

On March 31, 1927 Cesar Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona.

Hundreds of people took part in the celebration, which included dancing, food, workshops and a photo gallery.



Star Photo by Salvador Aguilar



Star Photo by Jorge Gallegos



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